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STATE COUNCIL OF CIVIL DEFENSE
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HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

PY D3313.4

September 16, 1952

INFORMATION CIRCULAR NO. 31
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IN CIVIL DEFENSE

1. The State Council of Civil Defense and the Department of Public Assistance, in accordance with the provisions of Section 6 of the State Council of Civil Defense Act of 1951, have worked out a joint policy relating to the Department's cooperation in the statewide civil defense program. This policy is designed to assure the wisest possible use, consistent with their primary responsibilities and functions, of the Department's established facilities and personnel experienced in welfare work.

2. Under the newly established policy, representatives of the Department of Public Assistance will confine their civil defense activities to the following:

(a) The development of plans for establishment and operation of local civil defense Emergency Welfare Services;

(b) The development of plans and operation of local Registration and Inquiry Services, including conduction of special training courses; and

(c) The development of plans for the administration of long-term (as differentiated from immediate post attack) assistance to the victims of enemy attack.

Detailed information concerning each of these three fields of activity is presented below.

3. Upon request from County Civil Defense Directors, Executive Directors of County Boards of Assistance, insofar as their primary duties and responsibilities may permit, will make available to County Civil Defense Directors the services of qualified employees who will be in position to assist in the development of local plans for emergency welfare services. Because wartime welfare activities basically are the extension and adaptation of everyday welfare services and because employees of County Boards of Assistance are trained and experienced in such work, they are particularly well qualified to assist in the preparation of plans for the organization and development of local Emergency Welfare Services.

4. Upon request from County Civil Defense Directors, Executive Directors of County Boards of Assistance will assign, within the limits of availability, employees to the task of assisting local organizations in the development and operation of their Registration and Inquiry Services. In addition, upon receipt of requests submitted to the State Council of Civil Defense by County Civil Defense Directors, representatives of the Harrisburg Office of the Department of Public Assistance will arrange to conduct, at local points, one-day training courses related to establishment and operation of county civil defense Registration and Inquiry Services. These courses will be centered around instruction in proper use of approved registration and inquiry forms. Their primary purpose will be to provide local organizations with a nucleus of trained registration and inquiry workers.

5. Plans for the administration of long-term assistance will be jointly developed by the State Council of Civil Defense and the Department of Public Assistance at Harrisburg. County Directors of Civil Defense and County Boards of Assistance will be furnished with details of the plans when completed.

Richard Gerstell
Richard Gerstell
Director of Civil Defense